

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/992,979

Applicant(s)

HAMMOND, JOEL K.

Examiner

Kuen S. Lu

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to october 11, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,4,6-15,17-19,21-27,29-36,38,41-52 and 56-63.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>#1/12/14/2005</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 11, 2005 has been entered.
2. After a thorough search and examination of the present application, and in light of the prior art made of record and Applicant's response of August 11, 2005, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-15, 17-19, 21-27, 29-36, 38, 41-52 and 56-63 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Eduardo E. Drake (Registration: 40,594) on December 14, 2005. The interview summary is attached.

The application has been amended as follows:

Page 5 before [0017] delete ~~**Detailed Description of the Drawings**~~ and insert

Detailed Description of the Invention.

Reason for Allowable

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In the Examiner's Office Action for Final Rejection of February 11, 2005, 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. § 103, rejections was primarily based on the reference of Schultz (U.S. Patent 5,640,553 "RELEVANCE NORMALIZATION FOR DOCUMENTS RETRIEVED FROM AN INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY", issued on June 17, 1997) and further in view of references of Chang et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0052871 A1, "NATURAL LANGUAGE QUERY SYSTEM COMPARES SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE WITH ENTRIES HAVING MEANING OF DOCUMENT, TO OBTAIN MATCHED ENTRIES", Filed on June 15, 2001, hereafter "Chung") and Hals et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0078230 A1, "NAVIGATION DIRECTING METHOD FOR WORLD WIDE WEB SITE USER, INVOLVES SELECTING NAVIGATION PATH BASED ON SEARCH TERM RECEIVED FROM USER OF WORLD WIDE WEB SITE", Filed on December 14, 2000, hereafter "Hals").

In the Remarks filed on August 11, 2005, the Applicant specifically pointed out that the references either individually or in combination does not teach the claim feature of an expanded query includes at least one non-synonymous term, a term that is not synonymous with any of the identified key terms in the user-entered query to: provide a vocabulary bridge having electronic files including groups of terms for expanding a query entered by a user, compare key terms to the electronic files and add the query to all query terms.

After further review of the search results previously conducted and Applicant's most currently amended claims, and consideration of the above Remarks, the Examiner is convinced that the prior art made of record does not teach the elements as described.

An expanded and update search for the prior arts on EAST database and on domains (EAST, NPL-ACM, Google, NPL-IEEE, Oracle, etc.) has been conducted. The prior arts searched and investigated in the database and domains does not fairly teach or suggest the teaching of the combined elements as claimed in the independent claims 1, 13 and 27.

The dependent claims in the groups (3, 4, 6-12, 33-36 and 41-51), (14-15, 17-19, 21-26, 52 and 56-59) and (29-32, 38 and 60-63), depending claims 1, 13 and 27, respectively, also distinct from the prior art for the same reason.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

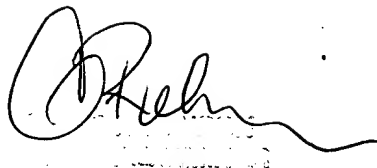
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Kuen S. Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 am - 5:30 pm). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone pre unsuccessful, the examiner's

Supervisor, Jean R. Homere, Esq. can be reached on (571) 272-3780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for Page 13 published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kuen S. Lu, Patent Examiner, December 14, 2005

K. S. Lu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. S. Lu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.